

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SCCT-01 SP-02 PM-03 NSC-05 NSCE-00

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 366

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, WB, GW, US, UK, FR

SUBJECT: KIDNAPPING OF PETER LORENZ: POSSIBLE REQUEST

FOR ALLIED AIR TRANSPORT FOR BAADER-MEINHOF

PRISONERS

REF: USBERLIN 363

1. SUMMARY: BERLIN AUTHORITIES WILLING MEET KIDNAPPER DEMANDS WHEN FORTHCOMING TO ENSURE SAFETY OF LORENZ. ALLIES MAY BE ASKED FOR ASSISTANCE WITH AIR TRANSPORT. HIGH FRG OFFICIALS PRESENTLY IN BERLIN ARE PERFORMING IN PARTY OR LIAISON CAPACITY ONLY. END SUMMARY.

2. IN EVENING OF FEBRUARY 27, U.S., BRITISH AND FRENCH LIAISON OFFICERS MET WITH CHIEF OF SEANT CHANCELLERY HERZ AT RATHAUS SCHOENEBOURG TO REVIEW LORENZ KIDNAPPING SITUATION. HERZ REPORTED THAT GOVMAYOR'S CRISIS STAFF HAD DECIDED SAFETY OF LORENZ WAS PARAMOUNT CONSIDERATION. THEREFORE, KIDNAPPERS' DEMANDS, WHEN RECEIVED, WOULD BE MET. HERZ SPECULATED KIDNAPPERS MAY SEEK RELEASE OF FIVE BAADER-MEINHOF GANG MEMBERS PRESENTLY IN STUTTGART OF GANG MEMBERS' AFD SUPPORTERS PRESENT IN
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BERLIN JAILS.

3. HERZ NOTED THAT IN EVENT KIDNAPPERS DEMAND RELEASE OF B-M PRISONERS IN WEST BERLIN AND TRANSPORTATION OUT OF CITY, HE MIGHT SEEK ASSISTANCE OF ALLIES IN OBTAINING AIR TRANSPORT. CIVIL AIR TRANSPORT WOULD BE PREFERRED BY SEFAT, BUT IF IT WERE UNAVAILABLE, SENAT MIGHT REQUEST ALLIED MILITARY AIRCRAFT. BRITISH AND FRENCH LIAISON OFFICERS WERE ASKED TO RENEW CONTACT WITH SMALL AIR CHARTER FIRMS PREVIOUSLY APPROACHED REGARDING POSSIBLE TRANSPORT OF B-M PRISONERS.

4. HERZ STRESSED HIGH-RANKING FEDERAL OFFICIALS WERE PARTICIPATING IN CRISIS MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES IN BERLIN ONLY IN THEIR POLITICAL PARTY CAPACITIES EXCEPT FOR MININTERIOR MAINHOFFER, WHO PERFORMS LIAISON FUNCTION WITH FRG. HERZ NOTED THAT LORENZ KIDNAPPING IS RESPONSIBILITY OF SENAT, WITH ALLIED ASSISTANCE AS REQUIRED, BUT FRG BECOMES INVOLVED IN CASE OF B-M PRISONERS IN WEST GERMANY. MAINHOFFER'S PRESENCE INSURES PROMPT RESPONSE IF QUESTIONS OF B-M PRISONERS IN FRG ARE RAISED.

5. REPORT OF NOTE FROM KIDNAPPERS JUST RECEIVED. SEPTTEL FOLLOWS. GEORGE

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